

Message Text

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44

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 AGR-05 FMC-01 ACDA-05 CG-00

DOT-00 SAJ-01 /098 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9104

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 491

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS NO

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT ON NORWAY'S CONTIGUOUS TRAWL FREE ZONES

REF: OSLO 5335

SUMMARY: DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS NORWAY HAS HAD EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR ON ITS TRAWL FREE ZONES AND OTHER FISHERY MATTERS. A BILATERAL FISHERY AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED WITH THE SOVIETS WHO ALSO ACCEPTED A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSAL, REDUCING THE AREA OF THE ZONES 30 PERCENT, AND AN OVERALL
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800,000 TON QUOTA FOR ARCTIC COD FOR 1975. THE SOVIETS DID NOT

AGREE ON DIVISION OF THIS QUOTA WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEAFC MEETING ON JANUARY 13. TALKS WERE ALSO HELD WITH THE EEC WHICH TOLD NORWAY IT CONSIDERS THE TRAWL FREE ZONES ARE A MATTER FOR COMMON EEC CONSIDERATION. IF SO, NORWAY SEES LITTLE HOPE OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC BEFORE ITS JANUARY 15, 1975 DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONES AND MAY HAVE TO PRECEED UNILATERALLY. MEANWHILE IT HOPES TO OBTAIN BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY AND THE UK ON THE REDUCED ZONE PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 17 ARNE TREHOLT, JENS EVENSEN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, REVIEWED WITH E/C COUNSELOR STATUS OF NORWAY'S PROPOSED CONTIGUOUS TRAWL FREE ZONES. SINCE TALKS REPORTED IN OSLO 5335, NORWAY HAS HELD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EEC (WELLENSTEIN), FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, AND POLAND. THE ZONES, A FISHING AGREEMENT, AND ARCTIC COD WERE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIET MINISTER OF FISHERIES DURING WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 14.

2. NORWAY AND THE USSR INITIALLED A BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT PATTERNED ON THE SOVIET/JAPANESE AGREEMENT. THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. TREHOLT CONSIDERS IT A "RATHER HARMLESS COOPERATIVE DEAL" OF A GENERAL RATHER THAN SPECIFIC NATURE, BUT IT IS A FURTHER ELEMENT IN THE APPARENT SOVIET STRATEGY OF TYING NORWAY AND THE USSR TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. ALTHOUGH PROVIDING FOR COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION AND FOR CONSULTATIONS, TREHOLT SAID THAT NORWAY DECLINED TO AGREE TO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL FISHING MEETINGS SUCH AS NEAFC MEETINGS SO AS TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USSR AND NORWAY WERE GANGING UP ON OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. NORWAY AND THE USSR ALSO AGREED ON AN OVERALL 800,000 TON QUOTA FOR ARCTIC COD FOR 1975 BUT FAILED TO AGREE ON DIVISION OF THIS QUOTA. THIS ISSUE WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE EXTRAORDINARY NEAFC MEETING IN BERGEN ON JANUARY 13, 1975. THE USSR SUPPORTED 40 PERCENT SHARES FOR NORWAY AND THE USSR AND A 20 PERCENT SHARE FOR OTHERS, MAINLY THE UK AND WEST GERMANY. THE NORWEGIANS MAINTAINED THAT THEY SHOULD RECEIVE A COASTAL PREFERENCE AND SUPPORTED THE DIVISION SUGGESTED BY THE UK AT THE NEAFC MEETING IN HAMBURG IN NOVEMBER WHICH WOULD GIVE NORWAY 44.4 PERCENT AND THE USSR 34.8 PERCENT.

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PERCENT. THE 800,000 TON QUOTA IS FAR BIGGER THAN NORWAY WISHED BUT IS CONSIDERED THE BEST OBTAINABLE. NORWAY HOPES IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER NEAFC MEMBERS WHO INDICATED IN HAMBURG THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT A FIGURE IN THIS AREA.

4. NORWAY HAS REDUCED THE AREA COVERED BY ITS TRAWL FREE ZONES FROM 500,000 TO 350,000 SQUARE NAUTICAL MILES; (A) SLIVERS HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THE EAST SIDES OF THE JENNEGGA MALANGSGRUNEN (OFF

LOFOTEN) AND HJELMSOYBANK ZONES, (B) THE NYSLEPPEN ZONE HAS BEEN DRTBPED; AND (C) THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ZONE NEAR THE SOVIET BORDER COVERING THE NORDBANK HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, LEAVING JUST THE OEVERBANKEN TRAWL FREE. (A) AND (B) WERE DONE BASICALLY TO ACCOMMODATE THE BRITISH AND WEST GERMANS AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE FRENCH. (C) WAS DONE TO ACCOMMODATE THE SOVIETS. A MAP AND COORDINATES FOR THE REDUCED ZONES WILL BE SENT BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

5. TREHOLT STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE SOVIETS AGREED WITH THE REVISED ZONES, ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER HAD SAID THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON DETAILS OF THE ZONES WOULD BE NECESSARY. ACCORDING TO TREHOLT THE SOVIETS WELCOMED THE TRAWL FREE ZONE CONCEPT, EMPHASIZING ITS CONSERVATION BENEFITS (NORWAY STRESSES THE NEED FOR THE ZONES TO AVOID ACCIDENTS BETWEEN MOVING STATIONARY GEAR.) THE SOVIETS INDICATED NO PROBLEM WITH NORWEGIAN JURISDICTION IN THE ZONES, I.E., NORWAY'S RIGHT TO ARREST AND TRY VIOLATORS. (NORWAY HAD INDICATED TO UK AND WEST GERMANS A WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO THIS RIGHT IN 1975.)

6. EEC COMMISSIONER WELLENSTEIN "STRONGLY INDICATED" THAT THE EEC BELIEVED THE TRAWL FREE ZONE ISSUE WAS A MATTER FOR EEC COMMON CONSIDERATION. TREHOLT SAID THAT NORWAY MUST LIVE UP TO ITS PLEDGE TO ESTABLISH THE ZONES BY JANUARY 15 AND THAT CREDIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT STAKE. EEC PROCEDURES WERE TOO CUMBERSOME TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT BY THE DEADLINE AND IF EEC PERSISTED NORWAY MIGHT HAVE TO ACT UNILATERALLY. EEC WILL NEXT CONSIDER MATTER ON JANUARY 9 AT A MEETING OF FISHING EXPERTS.

7. DEPUTY LEGAL DIRECTOR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY VINDENES IS IN LONDON TO DISCUSS THE REDUCED TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSAL WITH THE BRITISH AND WILL VISIT BONN NEXT. TREHOLT HOPES BRITISH AND WEST GERMANS WILL AGREE BILATERALLY TO ZONES, THUS ALLOWING NORWAY TO MAKE AN END RUN AROUND THE EEC WHOSE JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TARIFF PREFERENCES THE EEC GIVES NORWEGIAN FISH WOULD BE UNAFFECTED. THESE PREFERENCES ARE COMPARATIVELY SMALL IN 1975. THEY WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 1977, BUT BY THAT TIME NORWAY HOPES TO HAVE ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE AS A RESULT OF ADOPTION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

8. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD WITH THE POLES, THE DUTCH, AND THE FRENCH. THE FRENCH WERE SOMEWHAT LESS HARDNOSED THAN PREVIOUSLY AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE TRAWL FREE ZONES BILATERALLY. THE DUTCH INSISTED THE ZONES WERE A MATTER FOR COMMON EEC CONSIDERATION. THE TALKS WITH THE POLES WERE LARGELY PRO FORMA. FURTHER CRITICAL TALKS ARE NOW SCHEDULED WITH THE U.K. ON JANUARY 8 AND WITH WEST GERMANY ON JANUARY 9.
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